

City of Columbia, Missouri

*701 E. Broadway
Columbia, Missouri*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, January 11, 2024

3:00 PM

Regular

**City Hall
Council Chambers
701 East Broadway
Disabilities Commission
Columbia, Missouri**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jacque Sample called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

(John Bowders, Kieta Clay, Hazel Fields appeared virtually)

Staff Present: Adam Kruse, Tim Teddy, Allison Anderson, Jerry East

Members of the public appeared in person. No members of the public appeared virtually.

INTRODUCTIONS

Statement by Chair on Virtual Participation

Jacque Sample makes a statement on virtual participation and reminds participants to keep cameras on.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Patrika Brown made a motion to approve the agenda. Ann Marie Gortmaker seconded the motion. All in favor; motion approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DRAFT December 14, 2023 Disabilities Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [12 December 14 2023 Minutes WORD version - DRAFT](#)

Members of the Commission wished to amend the December minutes for purposes of clarity by adding a sentence at the end of Jonathan Asher's public comments which states the following: "Jonathan Asher comments that he can currently report issues for residential sidewalks on the app but it should also allow reports for sidewalk issues on business properties on the app as well, instead of just a phone number to report issues with business properties."

Hazel Fields made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Patrika Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed. Cathy Dolles abstained from voting.

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

Managing Sidewalk Closures during Construction, a presentation and discussion with staff from the Departments of Public Works and Community Development

Allison Anderson, Engineering Supervisor in City's Public Works Department, presented on the City's new Sidewalk Closure Policy. Allison provided an overview of the new policy and discussed the procedure that contractors apply for the permit and then close a sidewalk. Under the new policy, the contractors will receive a minimum accessibility checklist for sidewalk closures so that contractors and city staff are aware of the requirements for accessible sidewalk closures. John Bowders noted the preference in the policy for pedestrians not to have to cross the street and asked about how that determination is made. Allison said that this is part of the application process for the sidewalk permit, so this determination will be made with staff and the contractor prior to the permit being issued. Vera Elwood commented that one of the considerations should be accessible curb cuts on both sides if pedestrians are required to cross the street. Ann Marie Gortmaker commented that she was happy the plan explicitly prohibits using caution tape as a means to close the sidewalk. Hazel Fields asked about signage requirements for closed sidewalks ahead. Allison discussed the signage requirements in the new policy and on the sidewalk closure accessibility checklist, and Allison stated

that there is signage requirement at the closest intersection when there is a mid-block closure, but mid-block closures are always a challenge. Jacque Sample asked about the training in the sidewalk closure policy, and wanted to ensure that along with annual training, all new hires should undergo the training immediately. Allison agreed it will apply to new hires as well. Jacque also commented on the importance of enforcing accessible sidewalk closures around medical facilities such as the Boone Hospital area, as well as ensuring push buttons at crossings are accessible as the Commission has heard concerns of buttons not being reachable to people who use wheelchairs. Ann Marie Gortmaker asked about the meaning of "detectable" barricades and whether that applies to sound detectable or cane detectable. Allison clarified it did mean cane detectable. Ann Marie commented on the training, that she has seen the training video mentioned in the policy and it is extensive. Allison stated that she has reached out to the Missouri's LTAP, which is a training provider on the safety of roadways, and hopes they will also provide more training in this area. Ann Marie asked about whether the permit online has been updated with respect to the new policy and the accessibility checklist. Jerry East stated that it has not been fully added to the online application yet, as staff wanted to receive public input before finalizing it to be part of the application process. Ann Marie commented that when contractors are applying to fully close the sidewalks, she believes they should include a justification in the application as to why they cannot do a protected partially open sidewalk. Adam Kruse stated that he will work with staff and can review the application itself to see if we need an additional question for contractors to justify why a full sidewalk closure is needed instead of a partial closure. Patrika Brown asked about notification to the public when the sidewalk is closed. Jerry East stated that Public Works's Public Information Officer is notified of the closure and public information will deem whether they need to do a press release or a social media notice of the closure. The determination is made in their office. The Commission thanked staff for their work and for presenting on this topic as sidewalks are consistently brought up in Commission business.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Sanctuary City Ordinance for LGBTQ Persons

Jacque Sample provided an update that the best understanding is that staff is in the process of drafting an ordinance to be presented to Council. Adam Kruse stated that is also his best understanding, Adam stated that if it goes in front of Council at the first meeting in February, then he will notify the Commission otherwise it will remain on the agenda for the February meeting for the Commission to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Disabilities Commission Budget and New Decision Items Requests

Jacque Sample provided an update on the current fiscal year budget and the Commission discussed the items. Commission would like to ensure there is ADA training for staff, including for first responders in particular. Jonathan Asher stated that he attended first responder training from Niagara University and he believes is helpful. Vera Elwood stated that Niagara University does provide free training for EMS employees for free but was not sure about police or fire. The Commission also discussed the upcoming ADA symposium and the budget allocation for that.

COMO Accessibility Plan Alignment Discussion on Reliable Infrastructure Goals

Adam Kruse provided an update that this was on the Commission's Speaker Schedule to review this. Jacque Sample stated that she is working on a survey or progress reports for these assessments. The Commission discussed this issue. The Commission's idea is to do two semi-annual progress reports, and one annual report to Council.

VIII. REPORTS**Future Agenda Matters**

Adam Kruse discussed the proposed agenda items for February's meeting according to the Commission's schedule, which is to invite someone from the City Manager's Office to speak and to keep a discussion on the Commission's budget on the agenda.

Chair

Jacque Sample mentioned again that she is working on finalizing the survey progress reports related to the COMO Accessibility Plan. Jacque also asked about drop down menus for items that go in front of City Council on Council memos. Adam Kruse stated that the drop down menus categories from two set plans, one of them is the Strategic Plan and he can't remember the name of the second plan. Jacque stated that she would like to see, in the future at some point, something specific to accessibility in the drop down menus.

Staff Report

There is no staff report.

Public Transit Advisory Commission

Adam Kruse stated that Dawn Zeterberg talked to him on the phone, they were not able to meet as there was an agenda issue so they were not able to meet in December.

MU Chancellor's Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Ann Marie Gortmaker says there is no update and that there was not a meeting scheduled for January.

Vision Zero Working Group

John Bowders says that there is no update at this time.

Airport Steering Committee

John Bowders says the steering committee is hosting an open house at the airport right now, there is a presentation by Burns and McDonnell. This presentation will be available on the airport's website.

IX. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Cathy Dolles discussed an issue with a crosswalk by Rusk. She would like to see a crosswalk in this area. Cathy also mentions that she spoke with staff and the Daniel Boone Library and their staff asked for a flyer with more information on the Disabilities Commission. The Commission agreed it was a good idea and discussed how to complete a brochure or flyer. Adam Kruse agreed to come up with the content for the brochures and flyers.

Jonathan Asher commented that in the past the Human Rights Commission has done public listening sessions in the past and believed the Disabilities Commission should try to join them if possible.

Ann Marie Gortmaker commented that she did reach out to Community Development and the Office of Neighborhood Services to discuss the issue with the report a problem feature in the app for sidewalks. She stated they were receptive to the conversation but it just takes time for any changes. Jonathan Asher comments on difficulty finding the report a parking violation feature in the app.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

February 8, 2024

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Hazel Fields made a motion to adjourn. Jonathan Asher seconded the motion.
The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM.**